GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:533
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
PROCEDURE FOR PRICE CONTROL OF DRUGS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a): whether Delhi High Court has directed the Union Government to enforcecheck on the companies which are charging exorbitantly for some drugs sold by other companies at very reasonable rates;

(b): if so, the details thereof;

(c): whether it is also a fact that drugs which are not scheduled are outside the ambit of National Pharmaceutical Price Authority and these are being sold at different rates by different companies;

(d): if so, whether the Government are empowered under Clause 10-B of theDrugs Prices Control Act, 1995 to enforce the uniform pricing; and

(e): if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 533 FOR ANSWER ON 24TH APRIL, 2001.

(a) & (b): The Delhi High Court had issued a direction to submit an affidavit inrelation to the modalities which are taken into consideration in the examination of price fixation and price variation in respect of non-scheduled formulations under para 10 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.As per the direction of the Court, an affidavit has been filed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, in the Court in March, 2001.

(c),(d) and (e): As per para 10(b) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995,the Government may, if it considers necessary so to do in public interest, after calling for such information by order fix or revise the retail price of any formulation including a non-scheduled formulation. One such notable case is the fixation of retail prices of intravenous Fluids.